

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1058

C O N F I D E N T I A LIMA 5881

EYES ONLY FOR KUBISCH FROM AMBASSADOR

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, ETRN, PE, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRESIDENT VELASCO TO THE U.S.

AND BRANIFF-AEROPERU PROBLEM

REF: STATE 149141 AND STATE 155375

1. DURING SECRETARY CALLAWAY'S CALL ON PRESIDENT VELASCO THIS MORNING, SUBJECT OF AUGUST PRESIDENTIAL VISIT AROSE. VELASCO EXPRESSED HIS WARMEST APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION AND SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO MAKE VISIT BUT ADDED THAT HE HAD RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED THAT HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION WOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, PERMIT HIM TO CARRY OUT VISIT AT THIS TIME. HE EXPRESSED HIS GREAT ADMIRATION AND FRIENDSHIP FOR PRESIDENT NIXON AND SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO MEETING THE PRESIDENT HE HAD HOPED FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A MUCH-NEEDED CHECKUP AT WALTER REED HOSPITAL DURING SUCH A VISIT. HE SAID HE WOULD WRITE A PERSONAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON EXPRESSING HIS DEEP REGRET AND EXPLAINING HIS REASON FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO GO AT THIS TIME, BUT AGREED THAT I SHOULD SEND A CABLE GIVING WASHINGTON ADVANCE NOTICE OF HIS DECISION.

2. BOTH SECRETARY CALLAWAY AND I EXPRESSED OUR REGRET AT VELASCO'S DECISION, ADDING, HOWEVER, THAT WE COULD UNDERSTAND HIS REASONS. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO SAY TO VELASCO, AND LATER TO HIS SENIOR AIDE GENERAL IBANEZ THAT A A LONG LEAD TIME IS REQUIRED TO SCHEDULE SUCH VISITS WITH OUR PRESIDENT AND THAT IF COULD BE MONTHS BEFORE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY COULD BE FOUND. THEY UNDERSTOOD. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA
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FLOR THIS AFTERNOON, AT WHICH TIME I WILL GO OVER THE SAME GROUND

WITH HIM
AND I MAY GET A BETTER FEELING FOR FUTURE POSSIBILITIES
OF VELASCO'S TRAVELLING.

3. I ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION OF THIS MORNING'S CALL ON THE PRESIDENT
TO INFORM HIM OF THE CAB RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING AEROPERU'S
PERMIT. THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE NEWS AND AGREED
TO HOLD IT CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL IS RECEIVED.
I PLAN TO CONVEY THE SAME INFORMATION TO DE LA FLOR IN MY MEETING
THIS AFTERNOON AND TO PRESS FOR EARLY CONSULTATIONS AND APPROVAL

4. COMMENT: IT IS UNFORTUNATE FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS THAT
VELASCO IS UNABLE TO ACCEPT INVITATION FOR NEXT MONTH. HOWEVER,
I BELIEVE THE FACT THAT INVITATION WAS EXTENDED HAS BEEN A GREAT
PLUS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT VELASCO AND HIS GOVERNMENT
AND HAS HELPED TO NAIL DOWN THE ERA OF UNDERSTANDING AND GOOD
FEELING THAT BEGAN WITH THE SIGNING OF THE GREENE AGREEMENT ON
FEBRUARY 19. VELASCO IS DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT'S
INVITATION AND HAS A SINCERE FEELING OF FRIENDSHIP AND UNDER-
STANDING FOR OUR PRESIDENT.
DEAN

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